

## FESTIVAL NEWS RELEASE

The Chamber of Commerce for Oscoda County is hosting its first Annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival from June 10 to June 19, 1994. This festival is being created to celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of the Kirtland's Warbler and the Jack Pine forests it calls home. It will be held in conjunction with the 50th Annual Mio Iris Show, the longest running annual Iris show in the World.

Activities for all age groups will be held throughout the county in the communities of Mio, Luzerne, Fairview, McKinley, Mack Lake, Red Oak and Comins. Oscoda County--the "Kirtland's Warbler Capital of Michigan"--will be host to the Festival and Iris Show

The festival is being designed to be fun as well as educational. Events will include guided tours of the Jack Pine forest to observe the rare Kirtland's Warbler, tours of famous flower gardens in the county, public viewing of the Iris Show and competition, historical tours, kids free fishing derby, mountain bike and foot races, juried wildlife arts and craft show, an AuSable River float and river clean-up, a parade in downtown Mio, special nature educational games for kids, and a bonfire on the riverbank.

A special event the first weekend will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to open a 48 mile, self-guided auto tour developed, by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and United States Forest Service, along the world famous AuSable River, and through the rich Jack Pine forests east and south of Mio.

For more information, call or write the Chamber of Commerce for Oscoda County, Mio, Michigan 48647, 1-800-800-6133, or contact Virgie Purchase, Festival Coordinator, at 1-517-826-5590.